

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 01502 250940Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7397

S E C R E T JIDDA 1502

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRO, SA

SUBJ: DEPTTEL ON BOYCOTT

REF: (A) RIYADH 50, (B) STATE 41644

1. MY FIRST IMPRESSION IS THAT SAG -- IN NOT INSISTING ANY LONGER THAT US FIRMS DISCRIMINATE -- IS THINKING OF RACE, RELIGION, AND NATIONAL ORIGINS. BUT ON OTHER HAND, SAG HAS A SYSTEM, AS I POINTED OUT IN RIYADH, WHEREBY UNACCEPTABLE FIRMS CAN BE ELIMINATED FROM CONTRACTING WITH SAUDI ARABIA WITHOUT THE US PRINCIPAL HAVING TO ACT AS COP FOR THE SAUDIS.

2. PERHAPS, LIKE SO MANY SAUDI STATEMENTS, THIS ONE IS NOT AS CLEAR AS WE WOULD WISH. WE CAN SAY THAT IT SHOWS THE SAG IS SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEM, IS TRYING TO ADAPT VIA QUIET DIPLOMACY, AND THAT THE MEANING OF THE STATEMENT WILL BECOME APPARENT -- AND WILL BE DETERMINED -- BY PRACTICE AND OUR OWN RESPONSE. THAT IS, IF WE CONTINUE TO PRESS QUIETLY, THE SAG MAY MOVE AWAY FROM ITS NOW SOMETIMES POSITION ON SECONDARY BOYCOTTS. BUT IF WE TRY TO MAKE THE ISSUE AS PUBLICLY EMBARRASING FOR THE SAUDIS AS POSSIBLE, THEN THE POTENTIAL CONTENT OF THE STATEMENT WILL BE VITIATED. WHAT THE STATEMENT WILL COME TO MEAN CAN BE
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DETERMINED BY HOW WE PLAY IT.

3. AFTER YOU HAVE USED MATERIAL IN HEARINGS, IF YOU DO, I PLAN EFFORT TO CLARIFY MEANING AT THIS END OF ASPECTS OF IT THAT ARE QUESTIONED. FAHD WAS NOT HIS USUAL EASY-GOING SELF DURING MY TALK WITH HIM AND HE DISPLAYED STRONG ANXIETY ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR HARSH LEGISLATION, AS PAPER HE HANDED ME MAKES CLEAR. AT

PRESENT TIME I AM CONCENTRATING ON HOW BEST TO HANDLE HIM IF HE INTERPRETS OUTCOME AS A REBUFF. IN 1973 SOME GRAVE ERRORS WERE MADE BY US WHICH LED DIRECTLY TO THE OIL EMBARGO. HE HAS IN MIND THAT HIS BROTHER'S DECISION THEN, ALTHOUGH PAINFUL TO SAUDI ARABIA, NEVERTHELESS REESTABLISHED THE KINGDOM AS THE MORAL LEADER OF THE ARAB CAUSE, AND HE FINDS THAT MEMORY A SOURCE OF COMFORT AS WE MOVE INTO THIS BOYCOTT CRUNCH. ALTHOUGH HE APPROVED SOME CONCILIATORY LANGUAGE, HE ALSO GAVE US A TOUGH WRITTEN SUMMARY OF HOW THINGS MAY GO. I CONSIDER, IN THE OVERALL, THAT HIS REMARKS TO ME CONTAINED BOTH AN ENTREATY AND A VERY DEFINITE WARNING.

PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, BOYCOTTS, BUSINESS FIRMS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, SA, XF, US, (FAHD, PRINCE)
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